

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/719,958

Examiner

Vernal U. Brown

Applicant(s)

POWELL, GEORGE LEONARD

Art Unit

2612

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/3/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                               | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date ____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material         | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____.   |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This action is responsive to communication filed on March 3, 2006.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-23 are allowed.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears underline below in claims 1 and 10.

Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR1.312 to ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Tim Murphy on 4/7/2006.

#### **Claim1**

A radio frequency tag identification system comprising a plurality of tags and a transceiver for sending information to and receiving information from the tags, wherein each tag is allocated an identification word comprising a predetermined number of bits, the tags comprising means for selectively modulating a signal received from the transceiver and transmitting the modulated signals back to the transceiver, and the transceiver comprising means for sending an interrogation signal comprising a plurality of portions, wherein each portion of the interrogation signal has two possible signal formats, in the form of pulses having different durations, and the format used for a given interrogation signal portion is determined by the transceiver in dependence on modulated responses received from the tags during the transmission of the said

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given interrogation signal any previous portion, wherein each portion is associated with a predetermined bit, or bit sequence, of the identification words and is used to simultaneously interrogate the tags to identify, in response to modulated signals provided by the tags in response to the predetermined bit or bit sequence, the presence of a tag or tags having a given value of the identification word at the predetermined bit or bit sequence, wherein each tag is deactivated when not having said given value of the identification word at the predetermined bit or bit sequence.

#### **Claim10**

A method of detecting the presence of tags within a target area by sending interrogation signals from a transceiver for selective modulation and transmission back to the transceiver by tags present in the target area, each tag being allocated an identification word comprising a predetermined number of bits, the method comprising:

sending from a transceiver an interrogation signal comprising a plurality of portions, each portion of the interrogation signal having two possible signal formats, in the form of pulses having different durations, and the format used for a given interrogation signal portion being determined by the transceiver in dependence on modulated responses received from the tags during the transmission of the said given interrogation signal portion, each portion being associated with a predetermined bit or bit sequence of the identification words and being capable of conveying a given value for the bit or sequence of bits, wherein tags having the value at the predetermined bit or bit sequence are configured to modulate the signal and transmit the modulated signal back to the transceiver, the modulation being used to identify the presence of

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those tags, and wherein each tag is deactivated when not having said given value of the identification word at the predetermined bit or bit sequence.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vernal U. Brown whose telephone number is 571-272-3060. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-7:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on 571-272-3998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Vernal Brown  
April 11, 2006



BRIAN ZIMMERMAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER